

Remarks

Claims 1-17 & 19-20 are at issue. Claims 1-3, 7-20 stand rejected 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Denham et al (USPN 5,557,225). Claims 1-3, 7-20 stand rejected 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kojima et al (USPN 6,437,624). Claims 4 & 5 stand rejected 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Denham et al (USPN 5,557,225). Claims 4-6 stand rejected 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kojima et al (USPN 6,437,624).

All the independent claims 1, 9 & 15 require a transmission gate coupled to the reference input of the cross coupled latch. This is not shown in Denham et al, or Kojima et al. The Examiner suggests that element N10 (Kojima) is a second transmission gate. This is inconsistent. If N8 is the first transmission gate then the input signal is "D" and the second transmission gate N10 just couples the complement of the input signal "D" into I14. The claims require that the second transmission gate couple the reference input signal to the cross coupled latch. The input signal and complement of the input signal cannot be considered a "reference signal". The Examiner also argues that the transmission gate 524 (Denham) couples the reference generating circuit 510 to the latch. But clearly this is incorrect. The output of the reference generating circuit is coupled to the biasing of the transmission gate 524 and therefore the transmission gate does not pass or couple the reference signal to the cross coupled latch. Claims 1, 9 & 15 are allowable.

Claims 2-3 & 7-8 are allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claim 4 requires a Schmitt trigger. The Schmitt trigger was selected for a particular purpose that is not suggested in either of the prior art reference. A Schmitt trigger is not shown in either of the prior art references. So claim 4 is allowable.

Claim 5 is allowable for the same reason as claim 4.

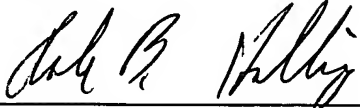
Claim 6 requires a latch coupled to the Schmitt trigger as part of the reference generating circuit. No such element is shown in the prior art references nor has the Examiner pointed to such an element in the references. Claim 6 is allowable.

Claims 10-14, 16-17 & 19-20 are allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Prompt reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

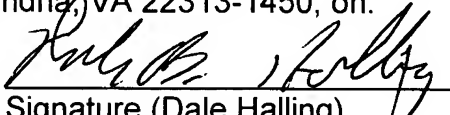
Respectfully submitted,

(Hunt et al)

By 
Attorney for the Applicant
Dale B. Halling
Phone: (719) 447-1990
Fax: (719) 447-9815

I hereby certify that an Response is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on:

5/11/05
Date


Signature (Dale Halling)